

Serial No. 10/669,777
Docket No. C14-161743M/ISI

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REMARKS

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since no new claims or issues are raised and the only claim amendments are directed to placing remaining claims into condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1, 4 and 8-13 are pending in the application. Claim 7 is canceled to move its subject matter into independent claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 5-7, and 14-17 are canceled.

It is noted that Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that dependent claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and has accordingly rewritten independent claim 1 to incorporate the content of allowable claim 7, as modified to incorporate the word "selectively"; since the skipping does not always occur.

With respect to the prior art rejection, claims 1-6 and 9-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Kobata, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,845,308).

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's position, they prefer to permit allowable subject matter to pass immediately to allowance. Therefore, the incorporation of claim 7 into independent claim 1 and the cancellation of claims 14-17 render this rejection moot at this time.

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FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

The specification is objected to for "informalities." As the specification is amended to correct the informalities, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

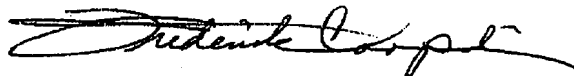
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4 and 8-13, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: 10/01/07

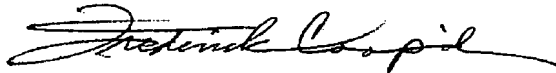


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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (571) 273-8300 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner A. Muhammed on October 1, 2007.



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